GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3518
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2001
FACILITIES TO DESERT AREAS
JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to provide similar facilities to desert areas as are being provided to hilly areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government propose to give special weightage to every desert districts of Rajasthan; and

(e) if so, by when; and

(f) if not, reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT, MINISTER OF STATE IN TH MINISTRIES OF PLANNING, STATISTICS & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE)

(a): No, Sir. The desert areas are already covered by the Desert DevelopmentProgramme which was started in the year 1977-78. The programme currently covers 232 blocks of 40 districts in the country including 16 districts of Rajasthan. The objectives of the programme are combating drought and desertification; encouraging restoration of ecological balance; mitigating the adverse effects of drought and adverse edapho-climatic conditions on crops and livestock, productivity of land, water and human resources; promoting economic development of the village community; improving socio-economic conditions of the resource poor and disadvantaged sections of the village community namely the asset-less and women.

Further, the Border Area Development Programme is also in operation in theborder blocks in Rajasthan which are also desert areas. The main objective of this programme is to meet the special needs of the people living in remote, inaccessible areas situated near the border.

(b) to (f): Do not arise.